

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring and controlling a manufacturing process to ensure at least one manufactured product meets at least one specificationsub-process, the method comprising the steps of:

a) ~~providing~~ providing at least one KPI platform with a SPC subsystem for at least one manufacturing sub-process;

b) ~~collecting and storing at least one piece of~~ product specific data in the same at least one database from the manufacturing sub-process through at least one data collecting apparatus;

e) ~~setting~~ setting at least one range of specifications for the at least one product and the at least one manufacturing sub-process~~piece of data on the KPI dashboard~~;

d) ~~accessing the single database with the KPI dashboard~~;

utilizing the SPC subsystem to set a range of alarms for the at least one product and the at least one manufacturing sub-process based on the collected and stored data;
and

e) ~~notifying at least one user through the SPC subsystem in real time when the at least one piece of~~ comparing the product specific data to the at least one range of alarms and the at least one range of specifications and notifying at least one user when the

product specific data falls outside of the at least one range of alarms or the at least one range of specifications.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the collecting and storing ~~at least one piece of~~ product specific data step comprises automatically collecting and storing a first piece of product specific data in the at least one database and manually collecting and storing a second piece of product specific data in the same at least one database.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing at least one piece of product identifying data and at least one piece of manufacturing plant specific data together in the at least one database.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing the user to select at least one manufacturing sub-process through the KPI dashboard.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the collecting and storing ~~at least one piece of~~ product specific data step collects and stores at least one measure specific to the at least one selected manufacturing sub-process necessary for the manufactured product to meet the specification.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the setting at least one range of specifications step comprises setting at least one range of specifications for the at least one measure.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~6~~[[8]], further comprising the step of entering into the at least one database a reason for the collected measure ~~triggering~~ falling outside of the at least one range of alarms or specifications.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of entering a corrective action in the at least one database that was taken to prevent the at least one measure from ~~triggering~~ falling outside of the at least one range of alarms or specifications.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating at least one report based on the ~~at least one piece of~~ product specific data stored in the at least one database.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring at least one manufacturing process for at least one manufacturing plant, the method comprising the steps of:

- a)——entering at least one piece of product identifying data for at least one product into a first data entry field;
- b)——entering at least one piece of manufacturing plant specific data into a second data entry field;
- e)——assigning at least one data collecting apparatus to at least one manufacturing sub-process that produces the at least one product;
- d)——collecting a first at least one piece of product specific~~process~~ data with the at least one collecting data apparatus from the at least one manufacturing sub-process; and
- e)——storing the product identifying data, the plant specific data and the ~~process~~product specific data together in at least one database.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of manually collecting a second at least one piece of product specific data from the at least one product and entering the data in the same at least one database that stores the product identifying data, the plant specific data and the ~~process~~ first product specific data.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of setting at least one range of specifications for the first at least one piece of product specific~~process~~ data.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of notifying the user in real time when the at least one piece of product specific~~process~~ data falls outside the at least one range of specifications.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of setting an alarm within the at least one range of specifications.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of notifying the user in real time when the at least one piece of process data triggers the alarm.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of generating at least one report from the at least one piece of product identifying data, the at least one piece of plant specific data, the first at least one piece of product specific~~process~~ data, and the second at least one piece of product specific data stored in the same at least one database.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of allowing at least one user to access the at least one database in order to track the at least one product through each step of the at least one manufacturing sub-process.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of allowing a user to directly access a plant management database and configure and manipulate the data stored therein, the method comprising:

a)——providing at least one piece of manufacturing equipment capable of producing at least one product;

b)——collecting automatically a first at least one piece of product specific~~process~~ data from the at least one piece of manufacturing equipment;

e)——entering manually a second at least one piece of product specific data for the at least one product produced from the manufacturing equipment;

setting at least one range of specifications and at least one range of alarms for the at least one product; and

d)——storing the first at least one piece of product~~process~~ data, the second ~~and~~ at least one piece of product data, the at least one range of specifications, and the at least one range of alarms together in the same at least one database; and

comparing the first and second product data to the at least one range of alarms and the at least one range of specifications and notifying at least one user when either the first or second product data falls outside of the at least one range of alarms or the at least one range of specifications.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

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25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of generating at least one report based on the first and second~~process data and~~ product data stored in the at least one database.

26. – 28. (Canceled)